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Pentar Avionics upgrades box for in-flight connectivity

SEATTLE — Pentar Avionics, a leading manufacturer of aircraft data communication and management products, has announced the availability of a new airborne network server called the JetLAN XP. The company describes it as a high speed "office in the sky."

The product is described as a next generation file server that improves real-time Internet access and corporate network connectivity on corporate and commercial aircraft. Based on the original JetLAN cabin file server, the JetLAN XP meets the demand of corporate passengers and aircraft crew members to stay connected to the Internet while in-flight.

"Corporations are currently reviewing and installing our JetLAN server so their executives can stay connected while in flight, a crucial business element today considering the volatility of the market and fast response requirements put on top executives on a daily and even hourly basis," said Bob Rodgers, president of Pentar Avionics.

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The JetLAN XP serves as an on-board local area network (LAN) allowing real-time access to the Internet, e-mail, corporate portals, intranets, corporate ground-based data files, as well as support for wired or wireless cabin networks. In addition, JetLAN offers file sharing among passengers, printer services, viewing of large group presentations, modem sharing and large storage capabilities (up to 60 GB) of personal, corporate and flight department documents or static Internet content.

Internet applications utilize an integrated modem card for interfacing with the airborne telephone or satellite communication device to establish a datalink to the ground for secure e-mail, Internet access, and corporate file sharing.

The JetLAN network server is a Pentium based PC running Windows or Linux server software. It is designed specifically for the cabins of corporate jets and regional airliners. The PC is housed in a small stand-alone aluminum case and is hardened to meet the demands of aircraft use. The processor unit is designed to be mounted remotely in any convenient location in the cabin. Utilizing an available ethernet hub, on-board laptops may communicate with the

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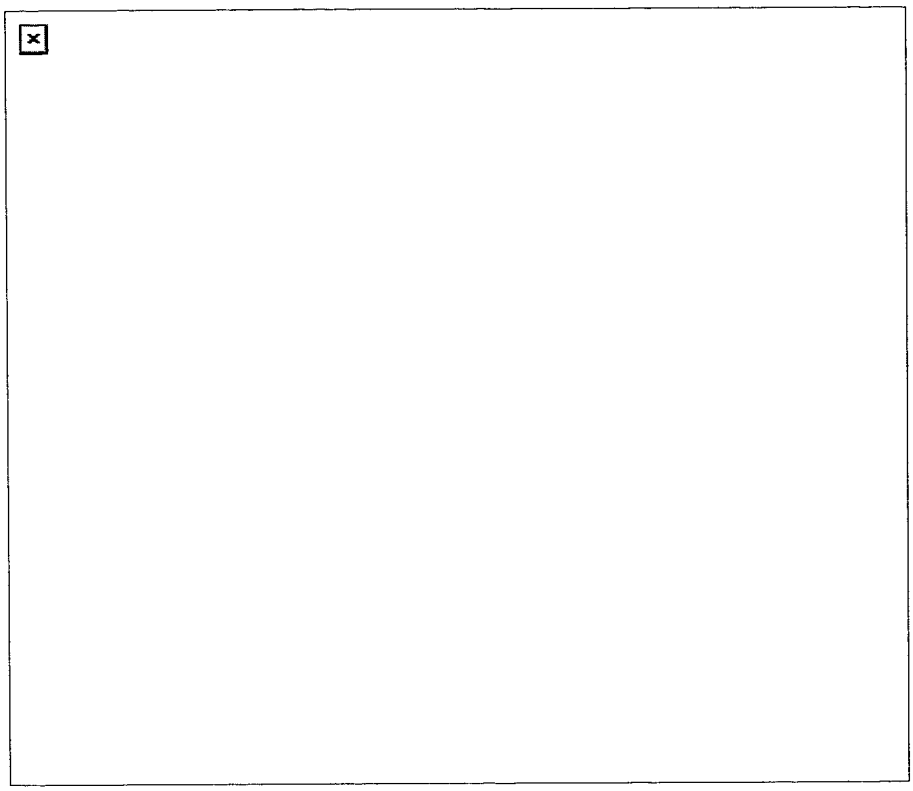
Tenzing fits Airbus with in-flight e-mail and Web

server using standard ethernet wiring. The PC includes a removable hard drive and has serial, parallel, modem and ethernet interfaces.

Using the modem interface and an airborne telephone or satcom, the server can become an e-mail and Internet gateway. Pentar says this eliminates the common problem of interfacing individual laptops with airborne telephones and provides additional e-mail management capabilities.

Pentar Avionics' development and manufacturing facility is headquartered in Seattle, with sales and support offices in Kansas and Montana. Pentar specializes in the development of integrated test management solutions and airborne data communications.



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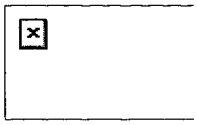

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